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23 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, RQM/OIS

SUBJECT : Semi-Annual Progress Report on the War Documentation Project (WDP)

1. During the period January-June 1956, research efforts were concentrated on the requirements pertaining to Soviet intelligence services and Soviet military units.

2. Useful instruction and guidance were received from the requesting office for the histories of military units at a conference on 16 May 1956. Because of the paucity of data on Soviet replacement units, it was agreed to compile information on the Soviet replacement system during World War II.

3. From approximately 1,500 documents of units subordinate to the German Army Group North, as well as about 150 German high command documents, 24 were selected and fully exploited for the history of the Soviet 627th Artillery Regiment resulting in a 40-page report which was forwarded to RQM/OIS on 12 June 1956.

Additional histories for military units will be compiled from captured documents dealing with units subordinate to the Army Group Center and Army Group South or their successors.

4. From the same documents, another 22 documents were selected and used for the completion of the attached 140-page report entitled Recruitment, Training, and Assignments of Soviet Agents During World War II. This report consists of a series of case histories based on German interrogation reports of captured Soviet agents giving data on Soviet intelligence installations, operational objectives, recruitment, training, personalities, equipment, and instructions regarding escape and evasion techniques.

5. Two specific requirements were answered in May and June respectively: (a) information on the recruitment of Central Asians for German intelligence activities during World War II and (b) information on Soviet Army field hospitals in the Stalingrad-Chelyabinsk area in 1943. The research for these two requirements resulted in the selection of 22 documents ranging from Corps level to the Armed Forces High Command (OKW).

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6. Additional guidance was received for the research on French nationals who collaborated with the Germans during World War II. It is planned to compile biographic and personality data on this subject matter during the coming months.

7. A similar requirement was received for Belgium and Holland. Information on Belgian and Dutch nationals who collaborated with the Germans during World War II will be gathered during the coming research effort.

8. In accordance with the comments received from the requesting office for target information, the research for this subject matter will be suspended for the time being and information will be supplied on an ad-hoc basis only.

9. No comments were received on the survey of material pertaining to Polish underground and Communist activities in Poland during World War II. Search for this requirement will be continued, but it is doubtful whether the desired information can be obtained.

10. It is hoped that the requesting office will continue to give guidance to the various projects.

J. J. BAGNALL
Chief, Foreign Documents Division

Enclosure: 1 (w/orig only)

1. Recruitment, Training, and Assignments of Soviet Agents During World War II

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